



**IPSAWG Minutes**  
**May 10, 2006**  
**Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge**

Attending – Ellen Jacquart, Phil O'Connor, Marc Webber, Jim Gerbracht, Chris Pierce, Jeff Kiefer, Lee Casebere, Bob Waltz, Hilary Cox

**1. Introductions.** Marc Webber welcomed us to Muscatatuck NWR. He has been the property manager at this site for about a year and has previously worked for the USFWS in California and Hawaii. He has a strong interest in invasive species and is on the board of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

**2. CAPS NAPIS – a database for Indiana invasive plant information?**

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey is part of USDA-APHIS/PPQ. Despite the name, they deal with more than just agricultural pests. They address species that cause damage to any resource. Information gathered through surveys are housed in databases. There are mandatory state level databases and then the overall National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) which is housed at Purdue University and run by Jim Pheasant. This is a huge database – 1.5 million records.

There are three components to NAPIS-

1. Restricted access database entry site – for those who have access to the system.
2. Pest Tracker [www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/](http://www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/) Open to public
3. USDA CAPS restricted access website – the restricted access library to query the data. Use of this library is restricted due to privacy issues.

There are national, regional and state lists of prioritized pests. Based on those priorities, states develop survey proposals to look for pests. Results of those surveys are entered into NAPIS. Importantly, both positive and negative data is reported so you can query where a pest has been found as well as where it has been searched for and not found.

NAPIS can generate a variety of maps showing pest distribution, but the public maps are all to county resolution because of privacy regulations.

In most states NAPIS data are primarily made up of regulated species, because they are often the priority for survey. Chris is adding some invasive plants to Indiana's system – e.g. purple loosestrife, yellow floating hearts, Eurasian water milfoil, kudzu.

The advantages and disadvantages of using NAPIS as a database for invasive species were discussed. While the public availability of the data at a finer resolution than county level may be limited, just having all the invasive species information in one system would be a tremendous advantage. It is suggested that anyone with a data set on invasive species work with Chris to get it entered into NAPIS.

### **3. Codes of Conduct Updates**

DNR – Lee says last meeting of the DNR invasive species committee was not well attended. Doug Keller and Tom Flatt wanted to add a couple things to the draft codes. The landholders meeting at which the codes were going to be reviewed was cancelled; this is the next step before going to the Director.

Muscatatuck NWR – Marc is working with Theresa to revise the codes to focus more clearly on the refuge and on actions over which they have control.

OISC – Larry has provided a pdf of the final signed codes for the Office of State Chemist

ASLA – final draft is ready for review and signature, per David Gorden

INLA – need to find out from Mike Cline.

NRCS – Ken asked that IPSAWG send a letter to the State Conservationist outlining what the codes of conduct are and what we are asking each group to do. I handed out a draft and the group reviewed and approved it. It'll be sent out next week.

### **4. Reply from Dave MacKenzie of Hortech –**

Much of Dave's 8 page response to our letter to him (see the minutes from the last meeting for more on this issue) focuses on Vinca and his view that it is not invasive. We read and discussed his letter, deciding that Ellen should reply with a short letter stating that based on evidence in Indiana, we believe it is invasive here; however, the situation where he is in Michigan may be different due to climate, soils, etc. She will draft something and send out for review.

### **5. Peter Orum letter in Indiana Nursery & Landscape News –**

There was a short letter by Peter Orum of Midwest Groundcovers (Illinois) in a recent Indiana Nursery & Landscape News that contained statements suggesting that 'big brother and sister' are now trying to tell the industry what plants to use or not use. Art Hopkins, landscape architect, sent a copy of the article and a letter he wrote in response to Ellen, who handed out both at the meeting. Art's letter was very nicely done, bringing up IPSAWG's work and that we (rather than big brother and big sister) are coming up with recommendations through assessment and discussion. Hilary will draft an article for the next issue of the News and send to us for review.

**6. Next species to assess – updates.** Ellen noted that the next batch of assessments need to be finished by November or so to be included in the brochure that will publicize our recommendations.

Sawtooth oak – Ken Collins and Phil O'Connor. They haven't started yet, but Ellen will send a note to invasive reporters asking for any more sitings and send copies to Phil and Ken.

Aquatic invasives – Doug Keller Doug is working on this and is contacting Reuben Keller at Notre Dame to see if his model would be useful in assessing aquatic invasives in Indiana.

Euonymus – Mike Cline and Ellen Jacquart. Ellen will talk to Mike and set an assessment meeting for late summer. It will be important to have interested parties in the room for this assessment.

Other species to assess? Suggestions from the group included Miscanthus, Paulownia, dames rocket, and English ivy. Hilary volunteered to do English ivy, and Ellen will send

out a note to invasive reporters asking for sites for English ivy in Indiana. Anyone willing to take on any of the other species is encouraged to do so!

### **7. June – Invasive Awareness Month in Indiana**

Ellen noted that June is Invasive Awareness Month in Indiana. There are many events – hikes, talks, control events – that will take place that month. A full list of the events will be in the TNC newsletter coming out in late May and on our website ([nature.org/Indiana](http://nature.org/Indiana), under Volunteer Opportunities). Press releases will also be sent out publicizing the events that are going on. Chris Pierce agreed to put something on the CAPS website, and Glenn Nice will put something on the Weed Science website at Purdue.

We'd like to have something on the DNR invasive species website, and Ellen will talk to Doug Keller about that.

### **8. MIPN EDRR publication –**

Ellen talked about the publications that MIPN (Midwest Invasive Plant Network) is working on currently. They are doing one on native alternatives to invasive plants in horticulture, one that will be a field guide to invasive plants in the Midwest, and one that will be a poster/brochure on 'new invaders' to the Midwest – species that are not yet well-established in the region. A list of 20-30 species to include has been developed and work is starting on the content and layout.

The intent of this early detection brochure is so that someone who sees one of these species outside of its known range will report it. Important question – in Indiana, who should receive reports of new invaders? There were a couple good suggestions -

- through a link on the CAPS website
- through a link on the IN Invasive Species website
- through calling 1-866-noexotic

Reports to those sites could then be sent on to appropriate people for response.

As this publication develops, Ellen will bring copies for review to IPSAWG and we can discuss what reporting/responding system seems most appropriate.

### **9. Updates from all**

USFWS– Jeff Keifer reports that the new Farm Bill (old one expires Sept 2007) is coming and there is lots of discussion on what form it will take. He is on working group developing recommendations for the new bill. This bill has tremendous potential for both good (restoration and invasive control) and for bad (planting of invasive species). USFWS will be encouraging native plants for planting, control of invasives, and discouraging use of invasive species. There may come a point when IPSAWG could weigh in on this – Jeff will keep us in the loop.

Div. of State Parks – Jim Gerbracht reported that the Division has been working on developing resource management plans for each property. This year the Division has allocated \$100,000 for resource management projects based on the plans. Property managers can apply for these funds but must match them with property funds. Many of the projects being proposed involve invasive species control. Great step forward!

Div. of Forestry – Phil O'Connor shared a funny article on kudzu. District Foresters are still working to encumber the available grant money to pay for kudzu, Asian bush honeysuckle, and tree of heaven control on private lands.

Div. of Nature Preserves - Lee Casebere noted that the garlic mustard biocontrol project through Cornell has made great progress and testing of biocontrol agents is going on – but the project needs funding. Few funds are available for this kind of work, despite all the money that is spent on chemical and mechanical control of garlic mustard. The recent article by Stinson et al. shows the significant impact of garlic mustard to forests – it decreases the arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi that are necessary for tree establishment and growth, essentially stopping forest regeneration.

Div. of Entomology and Plant Pathology - Bob Waltz never fails to update us with some quirky new invader in Indiana. Recently, Roman snails were found to be established in Connersville. This is a species of snail used for escargot that reproduce quickly and are a big agricultural pest.

Div. of Fish and Wildlife – Doug Keller reported that after a public hearing in Bloomington it was decided that the DNR would proceed with treating the Brazilian elodea in Griffy Lake with herbicide. Treatment has occurred, and monitoring of the level of chemical in the water is going on to assure it stays at the correct level for the necessary amount of time.